

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

Dormition of Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos

July 25, 2010



Dormition of the Righteous Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saint Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Aaron. According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the reign of St Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since St Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

St Anna is also commemorated on September 9.



Holy Woman Olympias (Olympiada) the Deaconess of Constantinople

Saint Olympias the Deaconess was the daughter of the senator Anicius Secundus, and by her mother she was the granddaughter of the noted eparch Eulalios (he is mentioned in the life of St Nicholas). Before her marriage to Anicius Secundus, Olympias's mother had been married to the Armenian emperor Arsak and became widowed. When St Olympias was still very young, her parents betrothed her to a nobleman. The marriage was supposed to take place when St Olympias reached the age of maturity. The bridegroom soon died, however, and St Olympias did not wish to enter into another marriage, preferring a life of virginity.

After the death of her parents she became the heir to great wealth, which she began to distribute to all the needy: the poor, the orphaned and the widowed. She also gave generously to the churches, monasteries, hospices and shelters for the downtrodden and the homeless.

Holy Patriarch Nectarius (381-397) appointed St Olympias as a deaconess. The saint fulfilled her service honorably and without reproach.

St Olympias provided great assistance to hierarchs coming to Constantinople: Amphilochius, Bishop

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, July 25 – Dormition of St. Anna - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Lunch following Liturgy – *Visitors Welcome!*

Wednesday, July 28 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, July 30 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, July 31 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, August 1 – Procession of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Lunch following Liturgy

EPISTLE READERS

July 25 - Joy Corey

Aug 1 - Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

Aug 8 - Tabitha Townsend

Aug 15 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

July 25 - Team 5 - Poland, Townsend, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Milojevic, Johnson

Aug 1 - Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub M., Holmen, Goolsby, Vlahos, Fellegly

Aug 8 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Roth, Ranson

Aug 15 - Team 3 - Garbinski, Horton L., Tourous, Jenkin, Ayoub D., Weddle, O'Daniel

*Contact Mark Ayoub if you would like to join a lunch team, or have questions or comments.

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Britt & Silas Monaghan (Dan Monaghan's wife and child), Jim (Chammy Ott's father), Sam (friend of Karen Karres' daughter), Jordan (Ken Sanman's daughter), Mike Allen, Bonnie Christensen, Jess Akins & her daughter Hallee (friends of Trudy Olinger), Johanna Barnett, Lois (Mary Jo Neyman's sister), Steve Kane (working in Alaska for the summer), Heather and her mother (friends of Chelsea Stillman), Bill Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Angelica Mamalakis (mother of Philip Mamalakis), Mat. Michaela Fenn (wife of Fr. Mark Fenn), Fr. Michael Lewis, Mary-Claire Roth, Loraine Gross (grandmother of Mary Claire Roth), Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Deacon John Tershay, Peggy Humby (Trish Bartlett's mother), Annie Cusella (friend of Calderoni's), Joan (Allyson Gross' Mother), Nancy Schrom (Mary Charles' mother), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Wanda (Mother of Lavonne Ayoub), Jim Parker (Chammy Ott's father), Jason Remington, Moses Kemper, Nikolay (Oksana Johnson's father), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, Cheyenne, Lynda (Michelle Fellegly's mother), George Kucera, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother).

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Katherine Lockhart (sister-in-law of Shirley Touros), Margaret (mother of Reader Matthew Gallatin)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Baby Silas Monaghan! - Glory to God - Silas Michael Monaghan was born to Dan & Britt Monaghan at 10:53 PM on July 17th, 2010. "He was 7 lbs. and 11 oz. and 20 some inches long, and happily has all his fingers and all his toes!" Please join us in congratulating them - and may God grant little Silas, and his family many blessed years!

Pan-Orthodox Summer/Dormition Picnic – August 15th – Save the date!

For the second year in a row we are planning the Dormition picnic ~ for all of our parishes, at Liberty Lake Park. Advertisement posters should be arriving soon with the particulars. In the meantime, please "save the date" and spread the word. We have the park pavilion reserved from 1 to 3 pm, but we can stay in the park as long as we like. Bring whatever you wish to BBQ on your own (BBQs are there), and otherwise - potluck items to share are most welcome, along with beverages.

Ancient Faith Radio – A resource you'll want to be familiar with!

Just a reminder about the fantastic resources available online at Ancient Faith Radio. This pan-Orthodox website includes many programs and podcasts on all kinds of topics about Orthodoxy and the Christian life. The site streams Orthodox music and/or Orthodox podcasts 24/7. Play it in the background while you work, or leave it on as background music in your home. It is truly a blessing that you should not miss out on. The website address is: <http://ancientfaith.com> Enjoy!

Cleaning Teams – St. John needs YOU!

We are in the process of putting together new church-cleaning teams. This is a beautiful and practical way to serve our community, and only requires a couple hours every 4 or 5 weeks (depending on how many of us join a team). Many hands make for light work – so please consider joining a cleaning team. Please contact Adam Roth (208-664-3280) for more information, or to join a team!

Scrip Program - Since Albertsons is no longer participating in the Scrip program, we are taking in less income. However, Safeway and Super One are still taking part in the Scrip program. If you shop at Safeway and have a Club Card, you can have your purchases linked onto St. John's. If you shop at Super One, you can purchase scrip and use it as cash. Please see Barbara Garbinski, if you would like to use either Scrip program. It is an easy way of helping St. John's.

of Iconium, Onesimus of Pontum, Gregory the Theologian, St Basil the Great's brother Peter of Sebaste, Epiphanius of Cyprus, and she attended to them all with great love. She did not regard her wealth as her own but rather God's, and she distributed not only to good people, but also to their enemies.

St John Chrysostom (November 13) had high regard for St Olympias, and he showed her good will and spiritual love. When this holy hierarch was unjustly banished, St Olympias and the other deaconesses were deeply upset. Leaving the church for the last time, St John Chrysostom called out to St Olympias and the other deaconesses Pentadia, Prokليا and Salbina. He said that the matters incited against him would come to an end, but scarcely more would they see him. He asked them not to abandon the Church, but to continue serving it under his successor. The holy women, shedding tears, fell down before the saint.

Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria (385-412), had repeatedly benefited from the generosity of St Olympias, but turned against her for her devotion to St John Chrysostom. She had also taken in and fed monks, arriving in Constantinople, whom Patriarch Theophilus had banished from the Egyptian desert. He levelled unrighteous accusations against her and attempted to cast doubt on her holy life.

After the banishment of St John Chrysostom, someone set fire to a large church, and after this a large part of the city burned down.

All the supporters of St John Chrysostom came under suspicion of arson, and they were summoned for interrogation. They summoned St Olympias to trial, rigorously interrogating her. They fined her a large sum of money for the crime of arson, despite her innocence and a lack of evidence against her. After this the saint left Constantinople and set out to Kyzikos (on the Sea of Marmara). But her enemies did not cease their persecution. In the year 405 they sentenced her to prison at Nicomedia, where the saint underwent much grief and deprivation. St John Chrysostom wrote to her from his exile, consoling her in her sorrow. In the year 409 St Olympias entered into eternal rest.

St Olympias appeared in a dream to the Bishop of Nicomedia and commanded that her body be placed in a wooden coffin and cast into the sea. "Wherever the waves carry the coffin, there let my body be buried," said the saint. The coffin was brought by the waves to a place named Brokthoi near Constantinople. The inhabitants, informed of this by God, took the holy relics of St Olympias and placed them in the church of the holy Apostle Thomas.

Afterwards, during an invasion of enemies, the church was burned, but the relics were preserved. Under the Patriarch Sergius (610-638), they were transferred to Constantinople and put in the women's monastery founded by St Olympias. Miracles and healings occurred from her relics.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE DORMITION OF ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

O Godly-minded Anna, thou didst give birth unto God's pure Mother who conceived Him Who is our Life. Wherefore, thou hast now passed with joy to thy heavenly rest, wherein is the abode of them that rejoice in glory; and thou askest forgiveness of sins for them that honor thee with love, O ever-blessed one.

KONTAKION FOR THE DORMITION OF ST. ANNA IN TONE TWO

We celebrate now the memory of Christ's ancestors, while asking their help with faith, that we may all be saved from all manner of tribulation as we fervently cry aloud: Be Thou with us, O Lord our God, Whose pleasure it was to glorify them both.

Dormition Fast Retreat 2010

Ἡ ΚΟΙΜΗΣΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ



With the blessing of His Grace Bishop +JOSEPH of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, Holy Cross parish in Yakima, Washington will host a Dormition Fast Retreat with Constantine Zalalas as the retreat speaker, **Saturday, August 7, 2010.**

Constantine will be speaking on:

The Orthodox Understanding of the Theotokos (part V)

Schedule:

Saturday, August 7,

10:00am, Session #1

11:05am, Trisagion prayers for the Departed

11:30am, coffee, rolls and discussion

12:00am, Session #2

12:30pm, Q/A

Lunch on your own

5:30pm, Great Vespers

6:30pm, Final Session #3

+ *Lunch will be on your own*

+ *Childcare will be provided*

+ *There will be an offering to cover expenses and honorarium.*

+ *For guests coming from out of town please call (509) 575-0145 if you would like to stay in one of our parish homes.*

May this lenten season instruct, challenge and inspire.